

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SAJ-01

ACDA-10 EB-07 IO-10 /092 W
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R 201525Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4987

INFO CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 1551

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT MARR IC

SUBJECT: SDP'S DEFENSE STATEMENT CALLS FOR CONTINUED IDF PRESENCE

REF: REYKJAVIK 1546 (NOTAL)

1. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY NATIONAL CONVENTION LAST WEEKEND
ISSUED EIGHT-POINT "POLITICAL RESOLUTION" PUBLISHED YESTERDAY.
DEFENSE PORTION OF STATEMENT IS QUOTED IN FULL BELOW:

(BEGIN QUOTE)

THE SDP IS NATURALLY OPPOSED TO ANY KIND OF USE OF ARMED FORCE
AND MILITARISM, BUT WHILE REGIONAL ALLIANCES ARE A FACT OF LIFE,
THE PARTY BELIEVES ICELANDERS HAVE A PLACE IN COOPERATION AMONG
THE WESTERN NATIONS. IN THE CURRENT WORLD SITUATION, THE SDP
FEELS IT WOULD NOT BE TIMELY FOR THE DEFENSE FORCE TO LEAVE THE
COUNTRY, BUT (THE PARTY) WANTS ICELANDERS TO INCREASINGLY ASSUME
THOSE JOBS WHICH DO NOT INVOLVE BEARING OF ARMS. (END QUOTE)

2. FOREGOING CONTRASTS WITH 1972 CONVENTION STATEMENT ON DEFENSE

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WHICH SPECIFICALLY CALLED FOR STUDY OF NEWLY-ELECTED SDP CHAIRMAN
BENEDIKT GRONDAL'S UNARMED SURVEILLANCE STATION PROPOSAL AND

OMITTED REFERENCE TO WESTERN DEFENSE COOPERATION AND TO NEED FOR CONTINUED IDF PRESENCE.

3. SDP'S RESOLUTION ALSO CALLED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE, ADVOCATED REVISION OF ICELANDIC CONSTITUTION AND ELECTORAL LAW TO INSURE EQUAL REPRESENTATION OF ALL CITIZENS, AND CRITICIZED "REACTIONARY" TENDENCIES OF NEW GOVERNMENT. BEYOND THIS, DOCUMENT WAS LARGELY GENERAL STATEMENT OF PARTY'S GOALS AND IDEALS REGARDING SOLIDARITY WITH WORKING CLASS, CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, PLIGHT OF DEVELOPING NATIONS, ETC.

4. CONVENTION APPOINTED COMMITTEE TO REVIEW PARTY PLATFORM. IF PLATFORM IS AMENDED, IT WILL BE SUBMITTED WITH APPROPRIATE COMMENT. AS OPPORTUNITY ARISES FOR CONTACT WITH SDP AND OTHER POLITICIANS, EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT TO ELICIT ANY MEANINGFUL COMMENT ON PARTY DIRECTION OR ON NEW LEADERSHIP.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY, POLITICAL PARTIES, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974REYKJA01551
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740336-0284
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741127/aaaaawsn.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: REYKJAVIK 1546 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 NOV 2002 by smithrj>; APPROVED <19-Nov-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SDP'S DEFENSE STATEMENT CALLS FOR CONTINUED IDF PRESENCE
TAGS: PINT, MARR, IC, IDF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005